



City of Cambridge Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

Dorchester County Budget Problems

Commissioners of Cambridge Acknowledge Challenges, Suggest Alternatives to Raising Cambridge & Hurlock Taxes

Cambridge, MD (May 9, 2025). The Commissioners of Cambridge acknowledge the serious budget challenges facing Dorchester County, largely driven by unfunded mandates from the State of Maryland. We are sympathetic to those challenges.

However, the solution cannot be to place even greater burdens on the residents of the City of Cambridge and the Town of Hurlock. These two communities are already essential to the County's financial stability. If property tax rate increases are unavoidable, they must be implemented fairly.

Under the County's proposed plan:

- **Cambridge residents would see a 10.33 cent tax increase per \$100.00 on their County tax bill.**
- **Hurlock residents would see an 11.21 cent tax rate increase per \$100.00 on their County tax bill.**
- **County-only residents would see a 3-cent tax rate increase per \$100.00 on their County tax bill.**

The residents of Cambridge and Hurlock would be double taxed with the tax differential being done away with.

Mayor Lajan Cephas has proposed a small reduction in County paving projects and using some funds from the County's reserves to address this issue as a one-time solution until the issue can be addressed in a more comprehensive manner.

The next County budget hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m. in the County Council Chambers, Room 110 of the County Office Building at 501 Court Lane in Cambridge.

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